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EXAMINER				
BENGZON, OREG C				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/19/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant presents the following argument(s) *[in italics]*:

[Colasurdo's modifying a session ID] is not the same as modifying the requested data...

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant.

Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

The Applicant presents the following argument(s) *[in italics]*:

...neither Barrera nor Bodwell disclose the 'modifying' and 'adding' limitation of claim 1... Colasurdo discloses a session ID that is transmitted by the client machine as part of the request wherein the session ID defines a set of related requests, not the first server that processes the request. This is not the same as modifying the requested data by adding an identity of the first server to a portion of the data that would be used to

initiate a subsequent request from the client computer and forwarding the modified data to the client computer as claimed in the present application.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant.

Colasurdo disclosed modifying the requested data by adding an identity of the first server to a portion of the data that would be used to initiate a subsequent request from the client computer and forwarding the modified data to the client computer.

Colasurdo Column 8 Lines 1-25 disclosed wherein a unique clone identification code identifying a specific clone within a server group can be appended to the jsessionid as shown below: jsessionid=abcdefg:ucid123 (1) where ucid123 is a unique clone identification code. Accordingly, when a front-end request dispatch software module receives requests corresponding to any given session and server group, it can read the clone identification code appended to the jsessionid and direct them always to the same clone in the server group whenever possible.

The Colasurdo jsessionid is used to *initiate a subsequent request from the client computer*. Colasurdo further modifies the jsessionid *by adding an identity of a specific clone within a server group*. Colasurdo then forwards the modified jsessionid to the client computer.

The Applicant presents the following argument(s) *[in italics]*:

... the cited references do not teach, suggest or describe "[a] method of accessing data from a plurality of servers comprising: ... adding an identity of the first server to the data and forwarding the data to the client computer wherein subsequent requests received from the client computer include said first server identity and sending each of said subsequent requests to said first server." (e.g., as described in the embodiment of claim 1).

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant.

Colasurdo Column 7 Lines 45-65 disclosed directing requests to an appropriate server based on factors such as content-based rules, load balancing rules and session affinity rules. Upon receiving a client browser request Colasurdo reviews the request to determine to which server it must be dispatched. Typically, the request dispatch routine will first determine which server group handles requests of that type (i.e., content-based factors which are usually derived from the URI of the request). Then, it will select a particular clone in that server group taking into consideration at least session affinity rules (e.g., it will try to send the request in any given session to the same server in the group) and load balancing rules (i.e., it will attempt to spread the request load evenly among the server clones in the group).

Colasurdo Column 4 Lines 1-15 disclosed wherein when a server creates a session, it assigns a unique session ID value that is sent back to the client machine under the name `jsessionid`. Thereafter, the client machine will include the session ID in all requests issued to that server farm. The session ID might be sent in a cookie that

forms part of the request. Alternately, it might be appended to the URI of the request in a mechanism known as URL rewriting.

Colasurdo Column 8 Lines 1-25 disclosed wherein a unique clone identification code identifying a specific clone within a server group can be appended to the jsessionid as shown below: jsessionid=abcdefg:ucid123 (1) where ucid123 is a unique clone identification code. Accordingly, when a front-end request dispatch software module receives requests corresponding to any given session and server group, it can read the clone identification code appended to the jsessionid and direct them always to the same clone in the server group whenever possible.

Colasurdo disclosed (re. Claim 1,8) wherein *subsequent requests received from the client computer include said first server identity*; (Colasurdo- Column 8 Lines 1-25, *wherein a unique clone identification code identifying a specific clone within a server group can be appended to the jsessionid as shown below: jsessionid=abcdefg:ucid123 (1) where ucid123 is a unique clone identification code*) and *sending each of said subsequent requests to said first server*. (Colasurdo- Column 7 Lines 45-65, *send the request in any given session to the same server in the group*, Column 9 Lines 35-45, *wherein the client machine sends a URI to the server farm that requires processing in the first server group again. As usual, the request dispatcher will determine the appropriate server group from the URI and will parse the jsessionid cookie from left to right and will now use the first unique clone identification code when it encounters it to send the request to the same server clone that had serviced previous requests with that session ID and thus, hopefully, already has the session data stored locally.*)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREG C. BENGZON whose telephone number is (571)272-3944. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter-Anthony Pappas can be reached on (571)272-7646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GREG C BENGZON/

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2444